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Identical letters dated 27 March 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 23 March 2000 addressed to you by Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the continuing pursuit by the United States of America and the United Kingdom of a policy of hostility towards Iraq. During the period from 8 to 21 March 2000, United States and British military aircraft carried out a total of 382 hostile sorties over the cities and villages of Iraq, in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Identical letters dated 23 March 2000 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to inform you that, between 8 and 21 March 2000, United States and British military aircraft, taking off from their bases in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey, continued to violate Iraqi airspace, carrying out a total of 382 aerial sorties, of which 238 were from Saudi Arabia, 68 from Kuwait and 76 from Turkey, killing one civilian and wounding 14 others. Details are given below:

1. *The northern region*: 76 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres:

(a) At 1220 hours on 8 March 2000, United States and British F-15 and F-16 aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. Supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Turkish airspace, they carried out 18 sorties, overflying the Dohuk, Aqrah, Amadiyah, Baibo, Ayn Zalah and Zakho areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1405 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1115 hours on 9 March 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. Supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Turkish airspace, they carried out 22 sorties, overflying the Mosul, Dohuk, Tall Afar, Irbil, Aqrah, Amadiyah, Ayn Zalah, Baibo and Zakho areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1425 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1130 hours on 11 March 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. Supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Turkish airspace, they carried out 16 sorties, overflying the Mosul, Dohuk, Aqrah, Irbil, Sinjar, Tall Afar, Rawandoz and Zakho areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1435 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1100 hours on 12 March 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. Supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Turkish airspace, they carried out 20 sorties, overflying the Mosul, Dohuk, Aqrah, Irbil, Sinjar, Tall Afar, Amadiyah, Ayn Zalah and Zakho areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1330 hours, drove them off.

2. *The southern region*: 306 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres:

(a) At 1330 hours on 9 March 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 40 sorties, 34 from Saudi airspace, supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace, and six from Kuwaiti airspace, supported by an E2-C

command and control aircraft from inside Kuwaiti airspace. The aircraft overflew the Basra, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Salman, Artawi, Qal'at Salih, Jalibah, Busayyah, Rumaythah, Umm Qasr, Ushbayjah, Najaf, Taqtaqanah, Lasaf, Amarah, Qal'at Sukkar, Kut and Qurnah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1440 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1255 hours on 10 March 2000, United States and British F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 26 sorties, 24 from Saudi airspace, supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace, and two from Kuwaiti airspace, supported by an E2-C command and control aircraft from inside Kuwaiti airspace. The aircraft overflew the Lasaf, Salman, Samawah, Jalibah, Nasiriyah, Amarah and Rifa'i areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1405 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1415 hours on 11 March 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 40 sorties, 28 from Saudi airspace, supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace, and 12 from Kuwaiti airspace, supported by an E2-C command and control aircraft from inside Kuwaiti airspace. The aircraft overflew the Samawah, Jalibah, Artawi, Nasiriyah, Basra, Amarah, Najaf, Qurnah, Lasaf, Taqtaqanah and Rifa'i areas and bombed civilian service installations in Samawah and Nasiriyah Governorates, wounding eight Iraqi civilians. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1710 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1305 hours on 12 March 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 34 sorties, 22 from Saudi airspace, supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace, and 12 from Kuwaiti airspace, supported by an E2-C command and control aircraft from inside Kuwaiti airspace. The aircraft overflew the Samawah, Nasiriyah, Basra, Qurnah, Qal'at Sukkar, Nukhayb, Salman, Aniyah, Ushbayjah, Busayyah, Taqtaqanah, Artawi, Shatrah, Diwaniyah, Ali al-Gharbi, Najaf, and Lasaf areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1450 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1430 hours on 14 March 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 60 sorties, 44 from Saudi airspace, supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace, and 16 from Kuwaiti airspace, supported by an E2-C command and control aircraft from inside Kuwaiti airspace. The aircraft overflew the Nasiriyah, Basra, Amarah, Salman, Samawah, Afak, Diwaniyah, Najaf, Hashimiyah, Hayy, Shinafiyah, Rifa'i, Nu'maniyah, Artawi, Jalibah and Busayyah areas and attacked civilian service installations, killing one civilian and wounding eight others. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 2250 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 1850 hours on 15 March 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18 and Tornado aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 18 sorties, 14 from Saudi

airspace, supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace, and four from Kuwaiti airspace, supported by an E2-C command and control aircraft from inside Kuwaiti airspace. The aircraft overflew the Nasiriyah, Amarah, Samawah, Salman, Dinawiyah, Lasaf, Qal'at Sukkar, Ushbayjah, Umm Qasr, Busayyah and Shinafiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1940 hours, drove them off.

(g) At 1955 hours on 16 March 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 14 sorties, 10 from Saudi airspace, supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace, and four from Kuwaiti airspace, supported by an E2-C command and control aircraft from inside Kuwaiti airspace. The aircraft overflew the Nasiriyah, Amarah, Samawah, Salman, Dinawiyah, Rifa'i and Shinafiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 2100 hours, drove them off.

(h) At 1350 hours on 18 March 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 58 sorties, 50 from Saudi airspace, supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace, and eight from Kuwaiti airspace, supported by an E2-C command and control aircraft from inside Kuwaiti airspace. The aircraft overflew the Nasiriyah, Amarah, Salman, Ali al-Gharbi, Shaykh Sa'd, Shatrah, Qurnah, Qal'at Salih and Lasaf areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 2105 hours, drove them off.

(i) At 2025 hours on 19 March 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16 and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 16 sorties, 12 from Saudi airspace, supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace, and four from Kuwaiti airspace, supported by an E2-C command and control aircraft from inside Kuwaiti airspace. The aircraft overflew the Nasiriyah, Samawah, Hayy, Jalibah, Artawi, Busayyah, Qurnah and Shinafiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 2125 hours, drove them off.

These acts of aggression represent the continuation of a consistent policy of hostility against Iraq that has been pursued by the United States of America and the United Kingdom since 1992 and is aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, deliberately and systematically bringing death to Iraq's citizens and inflicting damage upon its infrastructure and civilian installations. This policy has been confirmed by the repeated statements of United States and British officials purporting to defend the aerial exclusion zones.

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the so-called aerial exclusion zones, which were imposed by the United States of America and the United Kingdom pursuant to a unilateral decision which has no legal basis or legitimacy. Iraq rejects all measures taken on the basis of this illegal decision and, in particular, the fabricated excuses and pretexts used by those two States in efforts to disguise their military aggression against our country.

The logistical support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the United States and United Kingdom makes them full accomplices in the aggression

against Iraq, and they must share international responsibility for these acts committed against the Iraqi people.

The Government of Iraq, in condemning these acts of provocation, requests that you intervene with the Governments of the States in question with a view to bringing a halt to such acts and preventing their recurrence.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq